



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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Hollywood game store owner pleads guilty to pirating video games and illegally modifying Xbox game consoles

LOS ANGELES - The co-owner of a Hollywood video game store pleaded guilty today in federal court to conspiring to violate federal copyright laws for his role in a scheme to install pirated video games on specially modified Xbox game consoles sold through the store.

Jason Jones, 34, of Los Angeles, a co-owner of ACME Game Store, pleaded guilty this morning to charges stemming from an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Jones' partner – Jonathan Bryant, 44, of Los Angeles – has signed a plea agreement and is scheduled to plead guilty to a conspiracy count Monday afternoon.

Jones admitted in court this morning that he and Bryant modified Xbox game consoles by installing more than 50 pirated games on each machine. Jones had Xbox machines running as demonstrators in his game store, and he described to customers in detail the advantages of the modifications. Customers would pay from \$225 to more than \$500 for the modifications and the pre-loading of pirated video games, depending on the extent of the modifications and the number of pirated games that were pre-loaded onto the hard drive.

Jones pleaded guilty and Bryant has agreed to plead guilty to a felony count of conspiring to 1) traffic in a technology used to circumvent a copyright protection system, 2) infringe on a valid copyright for financial gain, and 3) willfully infringe a copyrighted work by reproducing and distributing pirated works worth more than \$1,000. Jones, Bryant and a third man who worked with them were indicted by a federal grand jury January 9 for installing illegal modification chips on Xbox game systems which allowed users to store and play pirated video games.

The third defendant, Pei "Patrick" Cai, 32, of Pico Rivera, who allegedly was performing the Xbox modifications, has failed to make court appearances and is considered a fugitive. Cai is charged with conspiracy; two felony violations of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which prohibits trafficking in technology designed to circumvent digital copyright protection technology; copyright infringement; and copyright infringement for profit.

This case began when the Entertainment Software Association reported to law enforcement that its private investigators had purchased a modified Xbox game console, pre-loaded with pirated games, from ACME Game Store in May 2005.

Jones is scheduled to be sentenced August 7. The statutory maximum sentence for the conspiracy is five years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.